



State of Utah

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NEWS RELEASE

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IS HISTORY DESTROYED IN THE NAME OF PUBLIC SAFETY?

Public Meeting Will Review Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Is history being lost in the name of reclamation and public safety? Public concerns about that question will be addressed during a public meeting to be held Tuesday, June 20, 2006 at the Utah Department of Natural Resources, 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah. The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program will conduct the meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m.

"Old mines are both dangerous and historic," notes Mark Mesch, administrator of the abandoned mine program. "We have a legal requirement and an ethical responsibility to consider the effects of our activities on historical resources and we take that charge very seriously."

The meeting will give people the opportunity to find out how the abandoned mine program analyzes cultural resources before commencing a project and also give them a convenient venue to provide input. On hand for the meeting will be Lori Hunsaker, an archeologist with private and public sector experience in dealing with abandoned mines and reclamation, as well as engineers from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program.

"Our challenge is to protect public safety while respecting historic values," said Mesch. "We try hard to do that responsibly and look forward to hearing public concerns."

The meeting is also an opportunity for Wasatch Front residents to comment on two upcoming abandoned mine projects now in the planning stage. The Gold Hill Project, approximately 40 miles south of Wendover, will seal about 200 hardrock mines in a 14 square mile area, and 283 mines will be sealed in the Star Mountain Range southwest of Milford in Beaver County.

Additional information about abandoned mines can be found online at www.ogm.utah.gov.